

Master's Care
North side of Belfast Road
Not accessible
Date: 1830-1850

Master's Care is a stone, two-storied, gable roofed house, four bays in length with the northerly bay dating from 1830-1850. Patented to Abraham Ensor in 1816, it was the home of members of the Ensor family for seventy-five years. The stone outbuildings recall the years when each farm was self-sustaining. The garage which was once a grainery is typical of the distinctive local style.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Master's Care

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side Belfast Road near Priceville Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

I. Lee Finkelstein

Telephone #: 771-4644

STREET & NUMBER

Master's Care

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21152**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5575

Folio #: 744

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA 419

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Master's Care is a stone, two storey house four bays in length, its principal facade facing west-southwest, hereinafter called west; east of its northerly bay is a lower two storey kitchen wing of two bays. Both sections have gabled roofs, the main house's being covered with wood shingles, that of the kitchen, with slate. A flush end chimney of brick rises above the east gable of the kitchen and stone chimneys with brick stacks above the roof are at either end of the main house, partially external and partially internal. The northerly bay's first floor, with its log joists, is a step above that of the southerly three bays and its windows are not aligned with those to the south; the northerly bay (only) has a cellar, the remainder of the house being above a crawl space, all suggesting different periods of construction. However there is no interior wall of stone between the northerly bay and the three southerly bays and no marked vertical joint externally but the character of external stonework varies slightly between the two sections. The northerly bay is probably the earlier of the two sections, dating from ca. 1830-1850. The kitchen wing was constructed separately from its adjacent northerly bay but it may be coeval or slightly later. The non-southerly orientation of this farmhouse, far removed from a road, is unusual, possibly the result of the first addition. Extensive interior additions, alterations and refinishing, all in the general character of the original, make exact and positive analysis impossible.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-419

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Master's Care, on the north side of Belfast Road, was the home of members of the Ensor family for over seventy-five years. The land was patented to Abraham Ensor in 1816 and appears with improvements on his 1818 and 1823 Baltimore County tax assessments.

This is thought by the Ensor family to have been the second dwelling of Abraham Ensor, Sr. It was inherited by his son, John B. Ensor, about 1835 and along with the present Marshall Smith and Perry Fuller residences (q.v.) formed what was familiarly known as Ensor Manor.

The house deteriorated badly in the early twentieth century. It was purchased by George W. Stevens in 1938 and some remodelling was done; but it remained for Dr. Edward McNichols, who became the owner in 1953, to restyle the structure completely, giving it its grand facade and frame addition on the north side. Laurence Ewald, a Baltimore architect, was in charge of this reconstruction.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1818, 1823.

Interview and notes from Mrs. Perry Fuller.

Interview with J. Wheeler Ensor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45 A+

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 continued

North of the old house is a two storey frame addition dating from the third quarter of the 20th century, designed by Laurence Ewald, A.I.A. The axis of the major portion of this addition is perpendicular to that of the main house and it is joined to the main house by a slightly lower two storey frame hyphen. North of this addition an adjoining one storey stone outbuilding, probably a smoke house originally, has been incorporated, with addition, into the dwelling.

Generally, windows throughout the earlier house, and the additions as well, are 6/6, flanked by modern paneled shutters. Some first storey windows are modern casements, including some of the earlier house.

The northerly bay of the earlier house is a single room; the adjacent bay to the south is a hall and it contains the principal stair which rises, with an intermediate landing, to the second floor. Its round rail is supported by moderately slim turned newels and rectangular balusters; the rail's dimensions do not increase above the bottom newel. The southerly bay is, likewise, a single room. Both floors have similar plans. The earliest doors have two long unmoulded, raised panels. Rafters in the main house are concealed behind existing finishes but the straight-sawn rafters of the kitchen wing are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge.

Immediately north of the house is a one storey stone outbuilding, probably a smoke house, now incorporated as part of the house and mentioned above. North of the dwelling house is a two storey grainery now adapted as a garage. In the characteristic manner of the area, the two buttressed

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 continued

stone (east and west) side walls support the wood frame second floor and roof structure with (north and south) end walls also of frame. West of the house is a one storey stone spring house, its roof rafters above a small attic or loft room mortised and tenoned at the ridge but without pegs.



BA-419 MASTER'S CARE

James T. Wellen, Jr. 9/1976

5/2/80



BA-419

MASTER'S CARE

James T. Wellan, Jr. 9/1976

5/8